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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/617,868	07/17/2000	Thomas J. Shaw	575329.77432	8293
20873	7590	08/21/2007	EXAMINER	
LOCKE LIDDELL & SAPP LLP			MACNEILL, ELIZABETH	
ATTN: DOCKETING DEPT.			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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DALLAS, TX 75201-6776				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/617,868	SHAW, THOMAS J.
	Examiner Elizabeth R. MacNeill	Art Unit 3767

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 June 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 58-77,79-86,88-94,96,107-109,113-116 and 122-141 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 58-77,79-86,88-94 and 107-109 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 96,113-116 and 122-141 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 18 June 2007 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 96 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsao (US 5,084,018).

Tsao teaches a syringe assembly having a hollow body (12), a retraction spring (38), a needle holder (34), needle (30), retainer (20), a plunger (50) with handle (57), tip (54), and rigid stop surface (26). See Fig 4.

4. Claims 113-115 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dysarz (US 5,180,369).

Dysarz teaches a hollow body (1), a needle holder (3, 21), compression spring (6), and annular shoulder (5) with forward end (19). Fig 1.

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5. Claims 122-125, 128-141 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Botich (US 4,994,034).

Botich teaches a needle holder (11/13), retainer member (21), spring (15), needle (17), plunger (59), seal (61), plunger tip (65) and barrier (57). Figs 4-5.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 116 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dysarz in view of Mercado (US 3,04,138).

Dysarz teaches the syringe as described in claim 113, but does not teach the back end collar. Mercado teaches a single use syringe with a radially extending member (20) and a collar (18) extending rearwardly of the back surface of the radially extending member, with the barrel having a different diameter (Fig 1)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the rearwardly extending collar of Mercado with the needle retraction mechanism of Dysarz in order to prevent the plunger from being withdrawn and the syringe from being reused (Mercado Col 1 lines 40-53).

8. Claims 126 and 127 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Botich in view of Mercado (US 3,04,138).

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Botich teaches the syringe as described in claim 122, but does not teach the back end collar. Mercado teaches a single use syringe with a radially extending member (20) and a collar (18) extending rearwardly of the back surface of the radially extending member, with the barrel having a different diameter (Fig 1)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the rearwardly extending collar of Mercado with the needle retraction mechanism of Botich in order to prevent the plunger from being withdrawn and the syringe from being reused (Mercado Col 1 lines 40-53).

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elizabeth R. MacNeill whose telephone number is (571)-272-9970. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Sirmons can be reached on (571) 272-4965. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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7/10/01*

KEVIN C. SIRMONS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Kevin C. Sirmons